



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**
US\$ 39.56

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

BURN NOTICE



Five years old Elana Watson reunites with her father in Whittlesea, Australia, Monday, Feb. 9, 2009. Suspicions that the worst wildfires ever to strike Australia were deliberately set led police to declare crime scenes Monday in towns incinerated by blazes, while investigators moving into the charred landscape discovered more bodies.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

A-ROID ADMITS



In this Feb. 20, 2008 file photo, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez glances back at fans while warming up during spring training baseball workouts in Tampa, Fla.

See *Sports Today*

Grixeny Tanisha Ponson is Morgan Island's Carnival Queen



EAGLE BEACH – Over the weekend Morgan's Island Aqua Park announced the coronation of its Carnival queen Grixeny Tanisha Ponson.

The lovely royalty was congratulated by her mom, also by Aruba's minister of finance, who happened to be on location, meeting friends at Morgan's Island Aqua Park, also by Leoncio Croes and Sergio Gallero of Impact Holdings NV. Sharlise M. Croes, Morgan's Island Aqua Park Aruba Marketing Supervisor reported that in honor of Carnival the fun park



decided to introduce new entrance fees effective immediately, that of \$39 for adults and \$34 for children, seven days a week. Morgan's Island Water Park will be closed on Mondays except on February 16 and 23. The park's new opening hours are: During the week 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays & Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Pictured here Queen Grixeny. □

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Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine." Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?
A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



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For reservations call:
Herbert 593-0368 | Herbert Jr. 592-4040 | Office: 583-2515

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Preparing For Valentine's Day & Carnival

Ruth's Chris Calls For Celebrations in the Month Of February



PALM BEACH— Ruth's Chris Steak House calls for celebrations during the month of February and wants to share it with you!

On February 14th, the famed steak house celebrates the day of love: Valentine's Day. For this special occasion, couples will find the perfect

environment for a romantic night out. Cozy corners, two private dining rooms and a romantic ambiance make up this 200 seat steak house. Great wines, sizzling dishes and a list of delicious desserts that are large enough to be shared by two, are all the ingredients needed for an unforgettable dining experience. Ruth's Chris Chef Charles Wagner, famed for his pastries at the Aruba Marriott in previous years, will add some extra "romance" to the desserts on Valentine's Day.

If you are in for festive cocktails and some quality time with your loved one at our cozy bar, general manager Eduard Renaud recommends a taste of the famous Orange Mojito, Ruth's Chris' signature drink. During a recent bartender contest held on the island, one of Marriott's bartenders won the "Best Carnival Drink on the island" with this tasty Mojito. "With Aruba currently celebrating its 55th edition of Carnival, it is the most popular drink to order at the bar. And very tasty too", commented Renaud.

On February 11 2009 world-renowned Ruth's Chris Steak House is proudly celebrating its first year anniversary in Aruba. Since Ruth's Chris Steak House opened its doors at the Aruba Marriott in 2008. It has been a great success. The sizzling steak



house is a 'must' for Marriott guests and locals.

Ruth's Chris is known for its exceptional steaks, selected from the top 2% of the country's beef and served sizzling hot - broiled in 1800-degree ovens and served sizzling on 500 degree plates.

In the pictures: Ruth's Chris signature drink "Orange

Mojito" prepared by Ruth's Chris bartender Angus Fontaine, Bartender Ivan de Jesus in carnival style with his creation named "Best Carnival Drink" on the island, Chef Ruth's Chris Charles Wagner preparing some delicious desserts, Chef Charles Wagner with Ruth's Chris "large enough for two to share" desserts. □





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PASEO HERENCIA MALL ARUBA TEL: 5868443

"A reporter's take of the Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta November 2008"

Excellent Coverage for Aruba in the Dutch Magazine "Zeilen"

Oranjestad –Last year during the annual Heineken Catamaran Regatta, Aruba's PR Company for the Holland market "BuroSix" invited the reporter Ernest Steinmeier of the magazine "Zeilen", to take part on the Regatta. Zeilen is a magazine that illustrates water related sport activities and has coverage of more

than 60.000 copies in Holland & Belgium and the title that Ernest gave the 6-page article was, "One Happy Regatta". In "Zeilen's" February's edition, Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta was fully documented in magnificent pictures of the whole event and gorgeous pictures of our white sandy beaches, which

also included information of the host hotel, Holiday Inn. This was great coverage for Aruba, and lead to the reporter feeling inspired enough to say the following, "Sailing sets the bar real high, when it's under the palm trees of the most beautiful beaches in

the world." These types of articles help with the promotion of the Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta. This year several of the participants will be in Aruba for 2 weeks to compete in 2 different Regattas, The Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta which will take

place on the 6th – 13th of November and from the 14th – 21st of November, for the first time, Aruba will be the epicenter of the grand event of DART 18 World Championship and both events will take place on the Beaches of the Holiday Inn. □

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REPORTAGE
ARUBA REGATTA

ONE HAPPY REGATTA

In november is het steevast tijd voor de tropische tegenhanger van de Ronde om Texel: de Aruba Regatta. Zeilen peilt de stemming onder de palmen op een van de mooiste stranden ter wereld.

TEKST ERNST STEINMEIER FOTO'S CLAIRE MATCHES



Schaatsliefhebbers warmen zich half november bij de haard met de gedachte aan de naderende winter. Catamaranzeilers grissen hun zomerkleding uit de kast en pakken die, samen met een hangbroek en een shorty, in hun koffer. Zij stappen dan op het vliegtuig naar Aruba voor de jaarlijkse Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta. De Aruba Regatta is voor catzeilers wat de St. Maarten Regatta is voor kajuitbootadepten: zon, zee, strand, feest, happy hours en o ja, zeilen. Het plezier gaat voor het gros van de 41 bemanningen boven alles. Dat neemt niet weg dat er hartstochtelijk wordt gevaren. Dat moet ook wel, wil je als rechtgeaarde, vakantievierende 'weekend warrior' niet afgaan tegen de grote namen waar je het tegen opneemt. Het voormalige olympische Tornado-duo

FEBRUARI 2009 www.zeilen.nl

La Cabana Hosts Appreciation Lunch



Eagle Beach – La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club hosted a special appreciation lunch designed to thank resort departments who participated in the year-long cafeteria theme day promotion.

Each month, the associates' cafeteria dressed up in honor of a theme luncheon. What started as a cute, innocent idea, grew into a mega promotion as departments competed for top honors trying to outdo each other and raise the bar on décor, ambiance and entertainment each month.

As a result of this spontaneous group competition, the associates of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club were treated to many memorable lunches which included a visit from the Mafia, an interaction with Mini and Mickey Mouse, a crazy afternoon with Clowns, a trip to the 60s and the love-child Hippies, a brush with Sinterklass and many more tremendous productions.

General Manager Joe Najjar thanked his crew for making the emotional investment and was pleased to note that at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club associates run the extra mile not just for guests but also for each other.

Pictured here, snapshot from many memorable cafeteria theme days. □



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Incentive groups enjoy intimacy of Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH – “Not too big, not too small...and the best fresh seafood on the island,” said a meeting planner recently when asked why she chose Aqua Grill as the location for one of her group’s special dinners. The Palm Beach seafood sensation seems to be a hot spot for group events, with beautiful décor, warm island service, and menus that can be tailored just for them.

The island of Aruba is now frequented by a charter flight from Dimensione Turismo that brings many of these incentive groups out of Milan, Italy here for a taste of our One Happy Island.

Recently, Dimensione brought two companies here, Abbattista and Nordbituni. The groups enjoyed many wonderful activities and cuisine while here on the island, and the management, culinary, and service staffs of Aqua Grill was excited to be one of the restaurants chosen to entertain them.

Pictured here are guests enjoying live Maine lobster, the island’s largest raw bar, and fresh catches. □



restaurant
PAM PAM special
4 course menu only \$ 23.-

Appetizer: Mustardsoup or fishsoup or tomatosoup

Middle course: Kebab pincho served with tzatziki

Maincourse: Fishstew or Tenderloin pincho on spicy vegeables or Mexican chickenplatter

Dessert: Brownie with icecream or fruitsorbet with ice cream

Location : Perle d'Or - For reservation call: 5877710 / 5932660

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Aruba Tourism Authority & Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

David and Patricia honored Distinguished Guests of Aruba



had been too many other touristic destinations in the Caribbean and none compared to Aruba. Congratulations to the couple and also to the management and staff of Marriott Aruba Ocean Club, for their excellent service. □

ORANJESTAD - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the distinguished honor of acknowledging Mr. & Mrs. David James & Patricia Markley as guest of the Island of Aruba. In a very quaint ambience, Mrs. Mandy Lopez, PR Liaison for Aruba Tourism Authority gave out the certificates in presence of Mrs. Lilian Britten, Director of Rooms Operations and also Mrs. Gail Saheet, Executive Secretary of Marriott Aruba Ocean Club and everyone was thanked on behalf of the Aruban Government for their continuous support. They were very happy with the acknowledgement, and expressed that they are very happy with our Island and especially with our courteous and amicable people. They



HAVANA Dance

The New 2009 Production of the Let's Go Latin!

The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent **HAVANA Dance** takes the stage. A thrilling mix of Latin/Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy modern/traditional Cuban dance.

HAVANA Dance is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean featuring true Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. Don't miss it!

Show time: Tuesday - Saturday at 9pm
Ticket Price: \$49 / Children under 12 pay \$25
Dinner Show package at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House \$89

For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357
Tickets available at concierge desks and the box office at the Renaissance Resort.

15% discount

Bring this ad at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and get 15% discount. Box-office open from 02pm till 09pm from Monday through Saturday.

The hottest Cuban show ticket on the island!

SHOW DATES: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE

\$89

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L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House offers mouthwatering American steak house fare and an extensive international wine list. Enjoy Aruba's premiere location for superb dining in a stylish décor.

GREAT SHOW, GREAT STEAKS, GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PRICES

Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm
Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm
For reservations call 523-6195
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*Price includes show ticket and 3-course dinner show menu

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Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.

As good as it gets The ULTIMATE in Seafood tonight at Moby Dick's

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste. Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu



for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

For More information and Reservations Call: 586 8333



Pago Pago
Seafood & Grill Dining

Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

Special offer:
 Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.



baci ristorante

Italian zest for living adds a unique flavor to your dinner at Baci Ristorante. "Bevenuti" to our Old Country piazza.

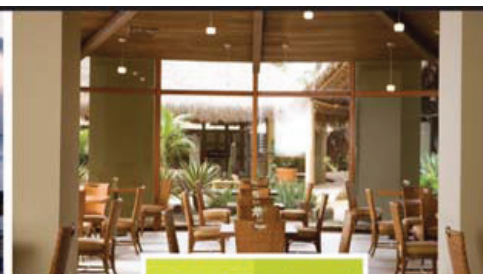
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 Enjoy a free birthday dinner (food only, three-course dinner) with a minimum of four persons – ID required.

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An epicurean delight located in a romantic setting on a sugary sand beach with a golden glow of a sunset as a backdrop.



BON cafe BINI

For the best breakfast buffet on the island, start your day right!

Discover the island's premier collection of dining options

For hours of operation and reservations please call tel 297.586.4466

It doesn't get more romantic than this...

Take your Sweetheart on a Caribbean-style Valentine's Dinner Sail

Red Sail Sports is delighted to invite you to enjoy an extremely romantic Valentine's Dinner Sail on one of their luxurious catamarans. Celebrate with the one you love and enjoy candlelight, Champagne, a deluxe dinner buffet, dazzling views, and live steeldrum music echoing across Aruba's turquoise waters. Wine and dine your Valentine in a way they'll never forget. The buffet-style dinner has a Caribbean theme and features salads, grouper, steak, and local specialties such as papaya stoba. Red and white wine is served along with an open bar which offers a variety of tropical cocktails.



Live steeldrum music and a red rose for every couple complete this magical evening. This sail is so special, it's a Valentine's gift in itself. The 3-hour sail with open bar, Caribbean buffet-style dinner and live steeldrum music is priced at \$79 per person. Sure to be the highlight of your Aruba holiday, this romantic Dinner Sail will take place on Saturday, February 14th from 6 to 9 pm. But if you cannot wait for Valentine's Day to take your partner on a catamaran sail, Red Sail Sports offers Snorkel, Sunset and Dinner Sails daily. And if you are looking for a last-minute Valentine gift, be sure to check out one of Red Sail Sports' retail stores, located all over the island, including at the Hyatt and Marriott resorts, on Renaissance Island and in downtown Oranjestad.

To make reservations or for more information call Red Sail Sports at **586-1603** or visit your hotel concierge or Red Sail Sports' reservation desks at the Hyatt and Marriott resorts, on Renaissance Island or at The Village (across the street from the Radisson).

Valentine Dinner Sail

*Live Steeldrum Music
 Caribbean Buffet Dinner
 Romantic Atmosphere*

Saturday February 14
 from 6 to 9 pm
 \$79 per person
 includes Open Bar and
 Caribbean Buffet Dinner

*For Reservations
 Call 586-1603*

red sail sports.
 ARUBA

At the Occidental Grand Resort and Casino

Sharon & David exchange vows & rings on the beach



PALM BEACH – It was a life long dream for Sharon Smith to marry on the beach for a destination wedding. Her dream came true this past weekend and Sharon and David Garfield pledged eternal

love to each other with the exchange of vows and rings. The ceremony was officiated by Rev Robert Gibson and Coordinated by Kimberly of the Occidental Resort. The romantic toes-in-the-sand

ceremony was witnessed by David's son David James and Sharon's maid of honor Danielle. Congratulations from Bella Aruba Photography and Aruba Today. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



Life's a Beach at the Juggling Fish

Palm Beach -- The Juggling Fish at Playa Linda Beach Resort is designed to stimulate your shopping instincts, as the beautiful store is hard to resist. What you'll find on the oceanfront boardwalk is absolutely gorgeous: hand picked gifts, souvenirs, beach and resort wear, it's all on display a few steps from the water.

The tastefully arranged store is signature Jodi Tobman-Hagedoorn, the Boston-born owner of one other Juggling Fish store at the Aruba Beach

Club. You will find a great selection of kid gifts here. In fact an entire inner section is dedicated to gifts with a tropical appeal for babies and toddlers, among them whimsical plush stuffed iguanas, parrots and seahorses. Moreover, a bonanza of fridge magnets, hand-made silver jewelry, batik beach wraps, throws and hats also awaits you.

Gift hunters will be pleased with the array of scented candles and candleholders. The store offers convenient barefoot



browsing possibilities and is located within a short walking distance from the Hyatt Regency and the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort.

The Juggling Fish at Playa Linda fits nicely into that resort's "Life's a Beach" philosophy. Open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sunday, when the rest of the island is at a standstill, the helpful staff at the Juggling Fish Playa Linda beach Resort is eager to serve you with a smile from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. Tel.: +297 586 4999.

Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com □

T.I. talks about reality show, facing prison

MESFIN FEKADU, Associated Press Writer
NEW YORK — Musically, T.I.'s has had nothing but success lately. His latest CD, "Paper Trail," hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts, and was accompanied by two No. 1 singles to match that. He's also won a number of awards — including a Grammy this month. But the rapper also has a big challenge on the horizon. In March, the 28-year-old, whose real name is Clifford Harris, faces about a year in prison after pleading guilty to federal weapons charges. As part of a plea deal, he agreed to also complete 1,000 hours of community service.

On Tuesday, MTV will debut "T.I.'s Road to Redemption: 45 Days to Go," which chronicles the rapper's attempts to help others avoid the mistakes he's made in the past.

AP: What's been the highlight of the new show?

T.I.: I guess the best part would be taking a very negative in a very negative time period in my life and turning it into a positive (one).

AP: Did you feel like the teenagers you helped got the message?

T.I.: I did. Especially after the fact, reaching back out to them seeing how they maintained that progress. I was very surprised. ... It's real, it's not anything that's made up, it's real talk, so if you want to get a message it's there for you to receive. If you block the message out, then you're going to have to pay for that.

AP: What was most challenging part when mentoring the teenagers?

T.I.: I guess the hardest part would be explaining to them how they're supposed to go against what they consider to be the only thing that they know and why. It's not easy to go against your natural gut feeling or your instinctive behavior. And to reprogram that, you have to have an incredible amount of logic, motivation and hope.

AP: How did you balance the community service and your busy music career?

T.I.: It was challenging, but as everything else in my career and in my life has

been, nothing has been a complete walk in the park. It was always an uphill battle so this was no different. We set a goal (and) we mapped out a realistic, strategic plan of accomplishing that goal.

AP: I heard there's a possibility you could do less time. Can you talk some more about this?

T.I.: If it is a possibility, I haven't heard a thing about it. But I didn't really do it for that. Of course I'm not looking forward to it, I'm not ecstatic about it, but I am looking forward to putting this part of my life behind me and moving forward. I just felt like me helping people would take the attention away from me

and give me something else to focus on.

AP: Going into jail, what kind of mindset do you have now?

T.I.: The mindset I have is the sooner I get started the sooner I get finished. □

T.I. performs at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)





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Sabana Grandi land, List # 97, 1500 m2



Listing price \$1,008,500
Sale price \$907,650
Caya Betico Croes, Commercial, List # 381



Listing price \$520,000
Sale price \$468,000
Santa Cruz, List # 384,
Office Building



Listing price \$278,000
Sale price \$261,320
Sabanilla Abao, List # 424, 3 bed, 2 bath



Listing price \$550,000
Sale price \$525,000
Oceania, List # 213
2 bed, 2 bath, view



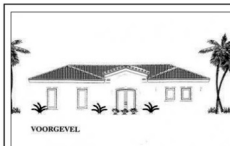
Listing price \$1,000,000
Sale price \$900,000
Sabana Blanco, List # 233, 11 bed, 11 bath



Listing price \$495,000
Sale price \$445,500
Ruby Villa, List # 333
3 bed, 3 bath



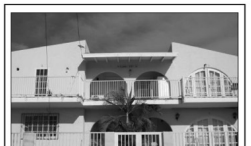
Listing price \$42,000
Sale price \$37,800
Tamarijn land, List # 155, 577 m2 / 6208 ft



Listing price \$495,000
Sale price \$445,500
Ruby Villa, List # 334
3 bed, 3 bath



Listing price \$899,000
Sale price \$809,100
Laguna Beach, List # 281, 10 bed, 4 bath



Listing price \$409,605
Sale price \$368,645
Figaroastr, List # 209,
14 bed, 14 bath



Listing price \$228,000
Sale price \$216,600
Pontón, List # 256
3 bed, 2 bath, Tropical



Listing price \$320,000
Sale price \$295,000
Trupiaal Res., List # 443, 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath



Listing price \$549,000
Sale price \$523,000
Oceania Condo, List # 235, 2 bed, 2 bath



Listing price \$250,000
Sale price \$225,000
Trupiaal, List # 400
4 bed, 2 1/2 bath, safe



Listing price \$495,000
Sale price \$445,500
Esmeralda, List # 332
3 bed, 3 bath



Listing price \$545,000
Sale price \$515,000
Seroe Alejandro, List # 158, 6 bed, 4 bath

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ARUBA REALTY

Wrigley suspends Chris Brown, Rihanna silent

By Jill Serjeant

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Chewing gum makers Wrigley on Monday suspended a commercial featuring Chris Brown after the popular R&B singer was arrested on suspicion of attacking a woman widely reported to be his singer girlfriend Rihanna. The clean-cut Brown, 19, one of the fastest-rising stars of the last two years, was free on \$50,000 bail, a day after the couple hurriedly canceled separate performances at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Both the Brown and Rihanna camps were silent on Monday. Police sources told the Los Angeles Times and celebrity Web site TMZ.com that the woman who reported she had been attacked by Brown in the early house of Sunday was 20-year-old Rihanna, singer of hits "Umbrella" and "Disturbia."

Wrigley said in a statement it was "concerned by the serious allegations" made against Brown, who was booked by police on suspicion of making a felony criminal threat.

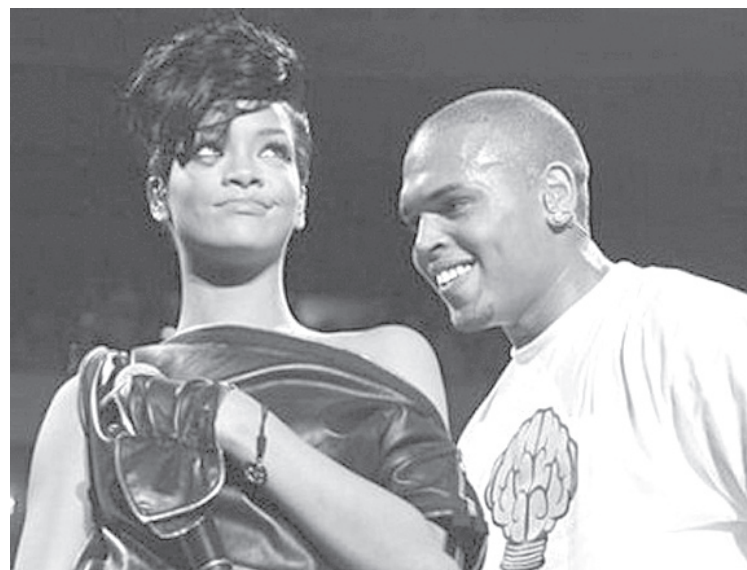
The company said that while

Brown should be afforded due legal process "we have made the decision to suspend the current advertising featuring Brown...until the matter is resolved."

Brown, who was competing against Rihanna in a Grammy category, was a spokesman for Doublemint gum and his hit song "Forever" was part of that advertising campaign.

The incident appeared to be out of character for Brown, who has been dating Barbados-born Rihanna for about a year and helped produce her album.

She was variously reported



Musicians Chris Brown and Rihanna perform during the Z100 Jingle Ball in New York in this December 13, 2008 file photo.

(Lucas Jackson/Files/Reuters)

to have been left bruised, bleeding and even bitten in the attack, which took place shortly after she and Brown left a pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills on Saturday night.

Police said the woman "suffered visible injuries" in the incident, which started in a car and continued as both parties got out.

Los Angeles prosecutors are considering whether to formally charge Brown, who could face up to three years

in prison if convicted, legal sources said.

Celebrity Web site Radaronline quoted an unidentified eyewitness who said she had seen Rihanna being treated at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Saturday.

"Rihanna was clearly very upset by what happened and I could hear her screaming. Rihanna was trying to get her point across about something. She sounded like she was crying," the eyewitness told Radaronline.com. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks end mixed as investors look to Washington



A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, February 2, 2009.

(Brendan McDermid/Reuters)

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Investors are waiting for Washington to make the next move.

Stocks ended a quiet session with only modest changes Monday as Wall Street sought details of how the government will reshape a rescue plan for the financial industry. Investors are also watching as political leaders scramble to put together an economic stimulus program.

The market is awaiting a Tuesday speech by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner outlining President Barack Obama's plan to overhaul the government's \$700 billion financial bailout package. Congress passed the measure last fall as the credit markets began to seize up on fears about rising levels of bad debt. Geithner had been scheduled to announce the plan Monday, but the White House pushed back the speech to focus on the stimulus bill.

The Senate is expected to pass an \$827 billion stimulus bill on Tuesday. The government, however, still faces the challenge of reconciling the Senate bill with the House's \$819 billion version that passed earlier. Republicans and Democrats have been at

odds over the plan, which is designed to help pull the economy out of the worst recession in decades. The Obama administration is still pressing to have the stimulus measure on the president's desk for signing by the middle of this month.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is also expected to testify Tuesday at a House Financial Services Committee hearing on the central bank's efforts to revive lending during the financial crisis.

Investors were hesitant to make big moves with so much news expected from Washington in the coming days.

"We saw a lot of buying ahead of the announcements," said Chris Johnson, president of Johnson Research Group. "Investors are simply biding their time to see if those expectations are going to be met."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 9.72, or 0.12 percent, to 8,270.87. The blue chips fluctuated between gains and losses 49 times during the session.

Broader stock indicators were mixed after a big rally last week. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.29, or 0.15 percent, to 869.89, and the Nasdaq composite index

slipped 0.15, or 0.01 percent, to 1,591.56.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 2.76, or 0.59 percent, to 467.94.

Gainers outnumbered losers by about 8 to 7 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 1.26 billion shares.

On Friday, the market largely overlooked a horrible jobs report and rallied in anticipation of the stimulus bill and changes to the financial bailout. The Labor Department said U.S. employers slashed 598,000 jobs in January. That left the unemployment rate at

7.6 percent, the highest level since late 1992.

The Dow industrials ended last week up 3.5 percent, the S&P 500 index rose 5.2 percent and the Nasdaq posted a huge 7.8 percent gain.

"Given that we had a good two-day rally and a strong performance last week, it's not surprising that we would see some softness," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist at RidgeWorth Investments. "There is a tug of war between the problems that we know are in front of us and the promise that is expected between the bank rescue

package and the stimulus plan."

Bond prices ended mixed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, was unchanged at 2.99 percent from late Friday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, rose to 0.32 percent from 0.27 percent late Friday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies. Gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude fell 61 cents to settle at \$39.56 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. □

Pfizer to disclose payments to doctors next year

By LINDA A. JOHNSON,
AP Business Writer

TRENTON, N.J. — Pfizer Inc., the world's biggest drugmaker, said Monday it will begin disclosing all sizable payments it makes to doctors, including those who test experimental drugs in people, a first for the industry.

The disclosures would begin early next year and are planned to include all payments to medical personnel who prescribe drugs — doctors, physician's assistants and nurse-practitioners — exceeding \$500 in a year, the New York-based company told The Associated Press.

The move comes after introduction last month of legislation to require such disclosures, and revelations of astronomical payments to some doctors that were not revealed to universities and hospitals that employed them.

"It's very important that we earn the trust of patients and the public," Pfizer Chief Executive Jeffrey Kindler said in an interview from Chicago, where he planned to announce the new initiative at an economics conference Monday evening. "People ... have come to various misapprehensions about what these payments are about."

He said medical research requires such collaborations between industry, doctors and academia. Last year, Pfizer worked with nearly 8,000 investigators.

The initiative will also include payments to universities and research sites involved in clinical research, and will cover non-financial gifts to doctors such as meals, travel expenses, textbooks and anatomical models. It's one of several by Pfizer in recent years to disclose

more information about its operations and financial ties to politicians and outside groups.

Consumer groups, politicians and others increasingly have been criticizing industry payments to doctors who promote a particular drug brand to colleagues, provide consulting services to drugmakers or work on human tests of experimental drugs, yet don't disclose that they are receiving tens of thousands of dollars — even millions, in rare cases — for those services.

A handful of drugmakers, including Merck & Co. and Eli Lilly & Co., have recently announced plans to disclose payments for consulting, giving speeches and the like.

Pfizer is the first company to add payments to doctors who work on clinical studies, write up reports for medical journals on them and otherwise provide behind-the-scenes support for getting an experimental drug approved by regulators.

Some industry critics — but not all — praised the move.

Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee and co-sponsor of a bill introduced last month to require such disclosures by drug and medical device makers, called the Pfizer news a tribute to how far the reform movement has come.

"There's so much public money and public trust at stake with the financial relationships between the pharmaceutical industry on one end and the practice of medicine on the other end, that the public has a right to know what those relationships are," Grassley said in a statement. □

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ARIAL 2009 THE STATE 2-6



More Bipartisanship, Less Stimulus

John Nichols

The Nation -- Determined to pass something in the way of a stimulus package, Senate Democrats on Friday bartered away key elements of the more robust plan approved by the House.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, and his caucus colleagues got what is being called a "bipartisan agreement." But this is not a case of less being more.

The Senate's \$780 billion plan is still a budget buster.

It's just not focused on spending as much of the money as the House sought to on renewing the economy.

In order to get the votes of two Republican (Maine's Susan Collins and Pennsylvania's Arlen Specter) and perhaps another (Maine's Olympia Snowe) that were needed to undermine the threat of a GOP filibuster, Reid surrendered \$86 billion in proposed stimulus spending. In doing so, the Democrats agreed to cut not just fat but bone, and to warp the focus and intent of the legislation.

The Senate plan is dramatically more weighted than the House bill toward tax cuts (which account for more than 40 percent of the overall cost of the package).

This is despite the fact that there is a growing consensus--among even conservative economists and policy makers--that tax cuts will do little or nothing to stimulate job creation in a country that lost almost 600,000 positions in January alone. As French President Nicolas Sarkozy, no liberal, said Friday of countries that opt for tax cuts rather than stimulus: The approach "will bring them nothing" in the way of economic regeneration.

The Senate's increased emphasis on tax cuts comes at the expense of the aggressive spending in key areas that might actually get a stalled economy moving.

Spending for school construction that would actually have put people to work -- while at the same time investing in the future -- has been slashed. (Almost \$20 billion slated for school construction is gone.)

Money for Superfund cleanup, Head Start and Early Start child care, energy efficiency initiatives and historic preservation projects -- all of which create or maintain existing jobs -- has been cut. Supplemental transportation funding has been hacked.

The House's proposal to help unemployed

Americans maintain their health benefits has been chopped down.

Axed, as well, has been \$90 million that was to have been allocated to plan for and manage a potential flu pandemic that economists and public health experts worry could shutter remaining businesses, bring the economy to a complete standstill and throw the country into a deep depression.

The bottom line is that, under the Senate plan:

- * States will get less aid.
- * Schools will get less help.
- * Job creation programs will be less well funded.
- * Preparations to combat potential public health disasters -- which could put the final nail in the economy's coffin -- will not be made.

In every sense, the Senate plan moves in the wrong direction.

At a time when smart economists are saying that a bigger, bolder stimulus plan is needed, Senate Democrats and a few moderate Republicans have agreed to a smaller, weaker initiative.

And Republicans are still delaying passage. It could be Sunday, even Monday, before a vote is taken. And who knows what more will be lost -- in time and stimulus spending before President Obama signs a bill.

These are the fruits of bipartisan fantasies and the compromises that follow upon them. President Obama, who should have been on television addressing the nation and doing everything in his power to rally support for a sufficient stimulus plan, will be lucky if he gets anything by the President's Day deadline he set. (Even after the Senate measure passes, a difficult process of reconciling the very different House and Senate bills must take place. Then there will be more votes before any legislation gets to the president's desk.)

The White House still wants to advance this measure, as do Senate Democratic leaders. And, considering the urgency of the moment, they are probably right to try to do something. But if the final "stimulus package" proves to be insufficient to jump start the economy -- and if what is left of public confidence in the prospect of turnaround collapses as a result -- this Friday night compromise will be remembered with pained regret. □

PRIDE OF THE YANKEES

By David M. Shribman

Let's start where journalists usually begin. There are no anecdotes about Judd Gregg.

He's bland, colorless, nearly humorless. He looks like Ichabod Crane. He is not given to flights of verbal majesty, or even to normal conversation. He's from the same state as Daniel Webster and Robert Frost but without the rhetorical lift of either Black Dan'l, who sometimes declaimed for hours, or the poet, who wrote 11 volumes of verse. He also is not a swinger of birches. Most definitely not a swinger of birches.

But he is, or soon will be, the secretary of commerce. President Barack Obama selected him last week -- the third Republican in his Cabinet -- and in choosing the senior senator from New Hampshire he inadvertently brought to a close more than a century of an important, though quiet, cultural and electoral phenomenon.

Flinty New England conservative, R.I.P.

When commentators bemoan the eclipse of a potent strain of New England Republicanism, they're usually talking about left-leaning moderates or liberals, men in the mold of Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut and Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts (both still alive), women in the mold of Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine (both still in office).

They're an endangered species, but Gregg is from a different genus entirely. He's from a line of men with huge Adams' apples and no small talk -- one of them, Rep. Perkins Bass, the son of a governor and father of a House member, was known, approvingly, as "small-mouth Bass" -- who have now faded from public view. Gregg is the last one, the lineal descendant of Charles Tobey, John G. Winant, Styles Bridges, Robert O. Blood, Sherman Adams, Norris Cotton, Lane Dwinell, Walter Peterson and his own father, Hugh Gregg.

They all served a term or two as governor (excepting Cotton, who served only in the House and Senate), never imposing a sales or income tax, never even thinking of it, and some of them went off to Washington, where their deep silences, which matched the mountain fastnesses of their home state, unnerved the panjandrum of the capital and, in some cases, terrified them. These were party men, to be sure, but you never, ever, saw them at a party.

They tended to be lanky and lean. They looked like they wore the same sports jacket (brown tweed, a little worn around the edges) and shopped at the same two stores (McQuaid's on Elm Street in Manchester and Champion's on Main Street in Hanover, both sadly now out of business but whose wares still sit comfortably in the closet of the executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette). It suited these men even better if these jackets were purchased in college, and in some cases they almost certainly were. □

At Papillon Restaurant in The Village

Henri Charrière would have had the time of his life



PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping autobiography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink

at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the

iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 5865400.



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umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted

bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar.

Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly

serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal □

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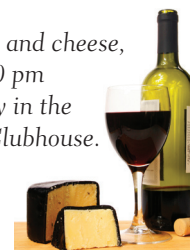
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Stimulus bill narrowly survives Senate test vote

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — An \$838 billion economic stimulus bill backed by the White House narrowly advanced in the Senate on Monday over strong Republican opposition, and Democratic leaders vowed to deliver the emergency legislation for President Barack Obama's signature within a few days.

The vote was 61-36, one more than the 60 needed to move the measure toward Senate passage on Tuesday. That in turn, will set the stage for possibly contentious negotiations with the House on a final compromise on legislation the president says is desperately needed to tackle the worst economic crisis in more than a generation.

The Senate vote occurred as the Obama administration moved ahead on another key component of its economic recovery plan. Officials said Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner would outline rules on Tuesday for \$350 billion in bailout funds designed to help the financial industry as well as homeowners facing foreclosure.

Monday's vote was close but scarcely in doubt once the White House and Democratic leaders agreed to trim about \$100 billion on Friday.

As a result, Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania broke ranks to cast their votes to advance the bill.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., battling a brain tumor, made his first appearance in the Capitol since suffering a seizure on Inauguration Day, and he joined all other Democrats in support of the measure.

"There is no reason we can't do this by the end of the week," said Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. As House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

has said, he declared he was prepared to hold the Senate in session into the Presidents Day weekend if necessary, and cautioned Republicans not to try and delay final progress.

He said passage would mark "the first step on the long road to recovery."

Moments before the vote, the Congressional Budget Office issued a new estimate that put the cost at \$838 billion, an increase from the \$827 billion figure from last week. Ironically, the agency said provisions in the bill intended to limit bonuses to executives at firms receiving federal bailout money would result in lower tax revenues for the government.

"This bill has the votes to pass. We know that," conceded Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota Republican who has spoken daily in the Senate against the legislation.

Continued on Page B4

Death toll in Australian wildfires rises past 170

By TANALEE SMITH

Associated Press Writer

WHITTLESEA, Australia — Disaster teams found charred bodies on roadsides and in crashed cars — grim signs of the futile attempt to flee raging wildfires fed by 60 mph winds, record heat and drought that caught even fire-savvy Australians by surprise.

As the death toll rose Tuesday to 173 in Australia's worst wildfire disaster, suspicions that some of the 400 blazes were caused by arson led police to declare crime scenes in some of the incinerated towns, Victoria police said.

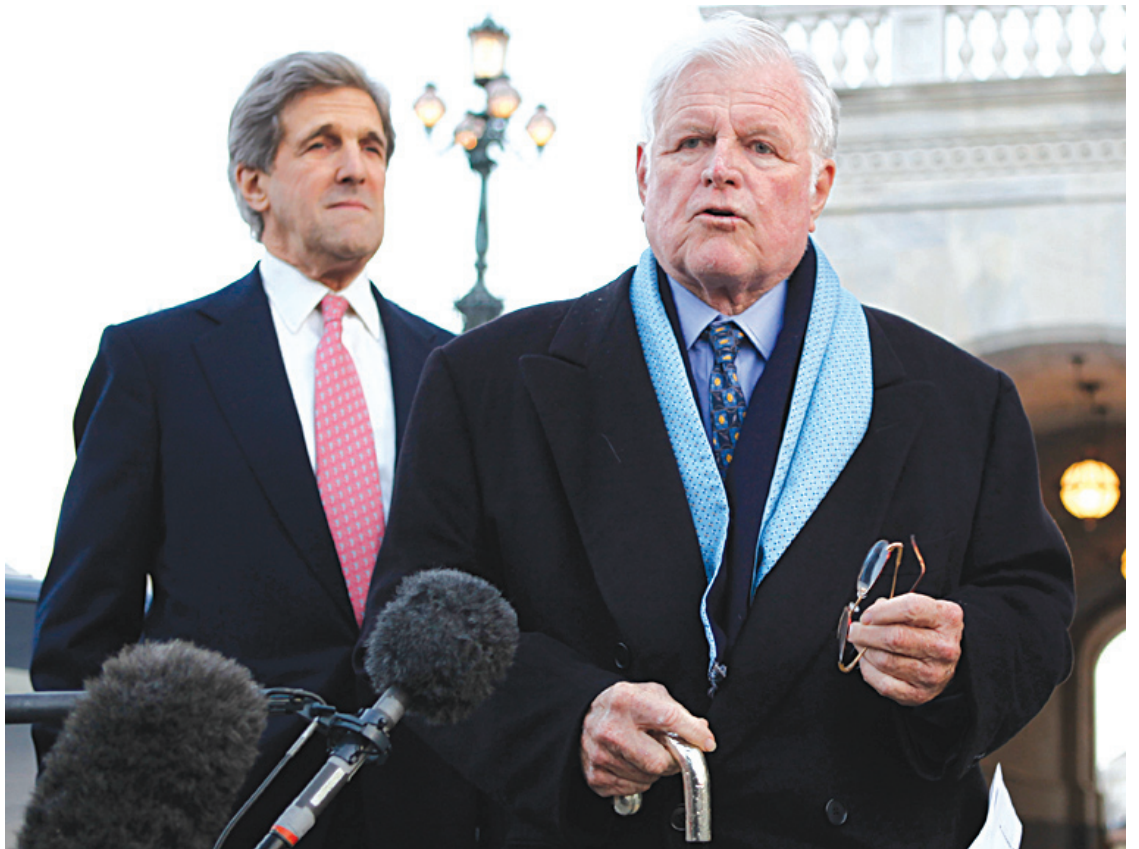
The fires near Melbourne in southeastern Australia destroyed more than 750 homes, left 5,000 people homeless, and burned 1,100 square miles of land, the Victoria Country Fire Service said.

Whole forests were reduced to leafless, charred trunks. Farmland was in ashes.

The scale of the disaster shocked a nation that endures deadly firestorms every few years. Officials said panic and the freight-train speed of the walls of flames probably accounted for the unusually high death toll.

"It was very quick and ferocious and took everyone by surprise," said Jack Barber, who with his wife, a neighbor, six cats and a dog sought refuge with five other people on a cricket field surrounded by trees in Kinglake.

"All around us was 100-foot flames ringing the oval, and we ran where the wind wasn't. It was swirling all over the place,"



Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., right, with Sen. John Thune, D-Mass., speaks with the media before the cloture vote on the Stimulus Bill on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 9, 2009. Sen. Kennedy who is battling a brain tumor make his first his appearance since having a seizure in Statuary Hall at the Capitol.

Associated Press



The remains of St. Andrew's church are scattered after it was destroyed by fire at the community of Kinglake, north east of Melbourne, Australia Monday, Feb. 9, 2009. Officials believe arson may be behind at least some of the more than 400 fires that tore a destructive path across a vast swath of southern Victoria state over the weekend.

Associated Press

he said. "For three hours, we dodged the wind." Firefighters battled more than a dozen blazes that burned out of control across Victoria state, although conditions were much cooler than Saturday. Forecasters said temperatures would rise later this week, posing a risk of flare-ups.

Blazes have been burning for weeks across several states in southern Australia, common for time of year. But the worst drought in a century in the south had left forests extra dry, and Saturday's temperature was 117 degrees, the relative humidity was 7 percent, and the wind was gusting to 50 mph.

Continued on Page B7

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Obama orders review of cyber security

By PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday ordered a 60-day review of the nation's cybersecurity to examine how federal agencies use technology to protect

President Barack Obama walks off Air Force One as he arrives at Michiana Regional Airport in South Bend, Ind., Monday Feb. 9, 2009. Obama will host at a town hall meeting in Elkhart, Ind. later Monday.

Associated Press

secrets and data.

Obama said former Bush administration aide Melissa Hathaway will head the effort to examine all the government plans, programs and activities under way to manage massive amounts of data — everything from passport application to tax records, personal tax returns to national security documents.

A failure or attack on that infrastructure could harm the country by, for example, shutting down the nation's airlines or crashing the stock

market.

"The national security and economic health of the United States depend on the security, stability and integrity of our nation's cyberspace, both in the public and private sectors," said John Brennan, Obama's top adviser for counterterrorism and homeland security. "The president is confident that we can protect our nation's critical cyber infrastructure while at the same time adhering to the rule of law and safeguarding privacy rights and civil liberties."

Obama — as a candidate — was critical of President George W. Bush's efforts to protect this information. He compared cyber threats to nuclear or biological attacks on the country and pledged a cybersecurity adviser who would report directly to him. Between his election and inauguration, Obama tasked aides with looking at the proposal. Some advised him to keep his pledge for a czar, while others advocated it go to the Homeland Security Department. □



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A DIVI RESORTS PROPERTY

Mexican drug violence spills over into the U.S.

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press Writer

Just as government officials had feared, the drug violence raging in Mexico is spilling over into the United States.

U.S. authorities are reporting a spike in killings, kidnappings and home invasions connected to Mexico's murderous cartels. And to some policymakers' surprise, much of the violence is happening not in towns along the border, where it was assumed the bloodshed would spread, but a considerable distance away, in places such as Phoenix and Atlanta.

Investigators fear the violence could erupt elsewhere around the country because the Mexican cartels are believed to have set up drug-dealing operations all over the U.S., in such far-flung places as Anchorage, Alaska; Boston; and Sioux Falls, S.D. "The violence follows the drugs," said David Cuthbertson, agent in charge of the FBI's office in the border city of El Paso, Texas.

The violence takes many forms: Drug customers who owe money are kidnapped until they pay up. Cartel employees who don't deliver the goods or turn over the profits are disciplined through beatings, kidnappings or worse. And drug smugglers kidnap illegal immigrants in clashes with human smugglers over the use of secret routes from Mexico.

So far, the violence is nowhere near as grisly as the mayhem in Mexico, which has witnessed beheadings, assassinations of police officers and soldiers, and mass killings in which the bodies were arranged to send a message. But law enforcement officials worry the violence on this side could escalate.

"They are capable of doing about anything," said Rusty Payne, a Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman in Washington. "When you are willing to chop heads off, put them in an ice chest and drop them off at a police precinct, or roll a head into a disco, put beheadings on YouTube as a warning," very little is off limits.

In an apartment near Birmingham, Ala., police found



A Aug. 21, 2008, file photo shows two deputies standing guard outside an apartment where five men were found dead in Columbiana near Birmingham, Ala.. The men had apparently been tortured with electric shocks before being killed in a murder-for-hire orchestrated by a Mexican drug organization over a drug debt of about \$400,000. Just as government officials had feared, the drug violence raging in Mexico is spilling over into the United States.

five men with their throats slit in August. They had apparently been tortured with electric shocks before being killed in a murder-for-hire orchestrated by a Mexican drug organization over a drug debt of about \$400,000.

In Phoenix, 150 miles north of the Mexican border, police have reported a sharp increase in kidnappings and home invasions, with about 350 each year for the last two years, and say the majority were committed at the behest of the Mexican drug gangs.

In June, heavily armed men stormed a Phoenix house and fired randomly, killing one person. Police believe it was the work of Mexican drug organizations.

Authorities in Atlanta are also seeing an increase in drug-related kidnappings tied to Mexican cartels. Estimates of how many such crimes are being committed are hard to come by because many victims are connected to the cartels and unwilling to go to the police, said Rodney G. Benson, DEA agent in charge in Atlanta. Agents said they have rarely seen such brutality in the U.S. since the "Miami Vice" years of the 1980s, when Colombian cartels had the corner on the cocaine market in Florida.

Last summer, Atlanta-area police found a Dominican man who had been beaten,

bound, gagged and chained to a wall in a quiet, middle-class neighborhood in Lilburn, Ga. The 31-year-old Rhode Island resident owed \$300,000 to Mexico's Gulf Cartel, Benson said.

The Gulf Cartel, based in Matamoros just south of the Texas border, is one of the most ruthless of the Mexican organizations that deal drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin.

"He was shackled to a wall and one suspect had an AK-47. The guy was in bad shape," Benson said. "I have no doubt in my mind if that ransom wasn't paid, he was going to be killed."

In July, Atlanta-area police shot and killed a suspected kidnapper while he was trying to pick up a \$2 million ransom owed to his cartel bosses, Benson said.

State and federal governments have sent millions of dollars to local law enforcement along the Mexican border to help fend off spillover drug crime. But investigators believe Arizona and Atlanta are seeing the worst of the violence because they are major drug distribution hubs thanks to their webs of interstate highways.

In fact, drug officials have dubbed Atlanta "the new Southwest border," said Jack Killorin, a former federal drug agent and director of the Atlanta region's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force. □

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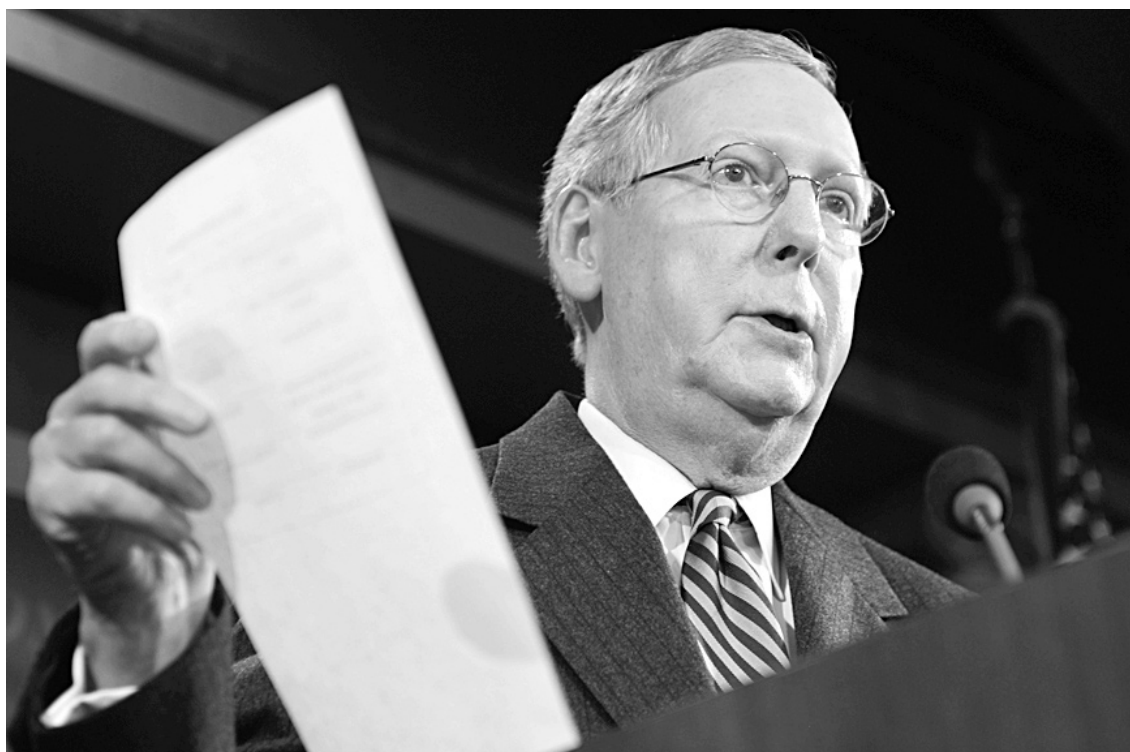
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Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. speaks during a news conference on the stimulus legislation, Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

SENATE VOTE

Continued from Page B1

As if to underscore its prospects for passage, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a prominent and powerful business group, issued a statement calling on the Senate to advance the measure.

Even so, in the hours before

Monday's vote, Republican opponents attacked it as too costly and unlikely to have the desired effect on the economy. "This is a spending bill, not a stimulus bill," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., ridiculed the bill. "The emperor has no clothes!

Associated Press
Somebody has to say it. I'm referring to this additional bailout, this spending bill that spends everything we've got on nothing we are sure about."

All 36 votes in opposition were cast by Republicans.

The two remaining versions of the legislation are relatively

close in size — \$838 billion in the Senate and \$819 billion in the House, and are similar in many respects.

Both include Obama's call for a tax cut for lower-income wage earners, as well as billions for unemployment benefits, food stamps, health care and other programs to help victims of the worst recession in decades. In a bow to the administration, they also include billions for development of new information technology for the health industry, and billions more to lay the groundwork for a new environmentally friendly industry that would help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

At the same time, the differences are considerable.

The measure nearing approval in the Senate calls for more tax cuts and less spending than the House bill, largely because it includes a \$70 billion provision to protect middle-class taxpayers from falling victim to the alternative minimum tax, which was intended to make sure the very wealthy don't avoid paying

taxes.

Both houses provide for tax breaks for home buyers, but the Senate's provision is far more generous. The Senate bill also gives a tax break to purchasers of new cars.

Both houses provide \$87 billion in additional funds for the Medicaid program, which provides health care to the low income. But the House and Senate differ on the formula to be used in distributing the money, a dispute that pits states against one another rather than Republicans against Democrats.

There are dozens of differences on spending.

The Senate proposed \$450 million for NASA for exploration, for example, \$50 million less than the House. It also eliminated the House's call for money to combat a potential flu pandemic.

On the other hand, the Senate bill calls for several billion more in spending for research at the National Institutes of Health, the result of an amendment backed last week by Specter. □

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Cunucu style home with large 2-bed apartment and pool on 1113 m2 of property land is situated in North. Build up area: 343m2. **Lay out:** Living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 A/C bedrooms, 1 bathroom, cov. back porch, pool with Jacuzzi and cabana.

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US\$ 1.300.000

Octuplet mom was treated at Beverly Hills clinic

By SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER,

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Southern California mother of octuplets was implanted with embryos at a Beverly Hills fertility clinic run by a well-known — and controversial — specialist who pioneered a method for helping women conceive.

Dr. Michael Kamrava's name emerged Monday as a result of an interview aired Monday on NBC with Nadya Suleman, who gave birth to eight babies Jan. 26.

Over the past two weeks, the identity of Suleman's fertility doctor has been a source of great mystery because of questions over the ethics of implanting numerous embryos in a woman who already had six children.

Kamrava, 57, did not immediately return a pager message left by The Associated Press, and a receptionist at his clinic near Rodeo Drive said he was not giving interviews. Without identifying the doctor, the Medical Board of California said last week it was looking into the Suleman case to see if there was a "violation of the standard of care." The medical board said Monday it has not taken any disciplinary action against Kamrava in the past.

In the NBC interview, Suleman did not identify her doctor by name, but said that she went to the West Coast IVF Clinic in Beverly Hills — of which Kamrava is director — and that all 14 of her children were conceived with help from the same doctor. In 2006, Los Angeles TV station KTLA ran a story on infertility that showed Kamrava treating Suleman and discussing embryo implantation.

Kamrava graduated from the University of Illinois and went to medical school at Case Western University in Cleveland, according to state records and his Web site.

Some fertility specialists said Kamrava is a controversial figure in the field.

"He's tried some novel techniques and some of those methods have been controversial," said Dr. John Jain, founder of Santa Monica Fertility Specialists.

Jain criticized the decision to implant so many embryos, saying: "I do think that this doctor really stepped outside the guidelines in a very extreme manner, and as such, put both the mother and children at extra high risk of disability and even death."

Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg, a professional acquaintance of Kamrava's, said Kamrava worked to develop an embryo transfer device that allows doctors to implant an embryo — or sometimes sperm with an unfertilized egg — directly into the uterine lining.

"Usually we inject the embryos into the uterus and they float around and attach themselves," Steinberg said. However, Steinberg said there was no evidence the method improved success rates for pregnancy.

It was not immediately known if the technique was used on Suleman.

Suleman said she had six embryos implanted for each of her pregnancies. The octuplets were a surprise result of her last set of six embryos, she said, explaining she had expected twins at most. Two of the

embryos evidently divided in the womb.

Medical ethicists have criticized the implanting of so many embryos. National guidelines put the norm at two to three embryos for a woman of Suleman's age, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Kamrava's clinic performed 20 in vitro procedures on women under 35 in 2006, according to the most recent national report compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those 20 procedures, four resulted in pregnancies and two in births. One woman delivered twins.

The average number of embryos he transferred per procedure for women under 35 was 3.5, the report said. Fertility doctors often implant more than one embryo to increase the chances that one will take hold.

An in-vitro procedure typically costs between \$8,000 and \$15,000. Asked on NBC how she was able to afford the treatments, Suleman said she had saved money and used some of the more than \$165,000 in disability payments she received after being injured in



A woman enters the Beverly Hills, Calif., building Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 where the clinic of Dr. Michael Kamrava is located. The mother who gave birth to octuplets identified the West Coast IVF Clinic in Beverly Hills in this building as the one which provided in-vitro fertilization for all 14 of her children.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

a 1999 riot at a state mental hospital where she worked.

Dr. Richard Paulson, who heads the fertility program at the University of Southern California, cautioned against rushing to judgment in this case because questions remain about the quality of Suleman's eggs and whether there were any extraordinary circumstances that would lead Kamrava to transfer so many embryos.

As for the technique Kamrava pioneered, "those of us who are the scientists in the field do not feel this is a significant

improvement," Paulson said. He said some doctors advertise that technique as "a way of making patients feel that they are trying something new."

A call to Suleman's publicist Mike Furtney was not immediately returned Monday. Suleman, who is 33, single and unemployed, told NBC's "Today" show she was "fixated" on having children. Suleman said her doctor "did nothing wrong" and had warned her of possible complications to the pregnancy and risks to the development of the babies. □

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By ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writer
BAGHDAD – A suicide car bomber struck a U.S. patrol in northern Iraq on Monday, killing four American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter in the deadliest single attack against U.S. forces in nine months. The blast occurred as U.S. vehicles were passing near an Iraqi police checkpoint in Mosul, Iraq’s third largest city and the last major urban battleground in the war against al-Qaida and other Sunni insurgents. American casualties have fallen to some of their lowest levels of the war since thousands of Sunnis

abandoned the insurgency and U.S. and Iraqi forces routed Shiite militias in Baghdad and Basra last spring. Only five of the 16 U.S. service members who died in Iraq last month were killed in action. However, fighting continues in Mosul and elsewhere in northern Iraq — a conflict which U.S. officials say is driven in part by ethnic rivalries between Sunni Arabs and Kurds. Many Sunni extremists are believed to have fled north after being driven from longtime strongholds in Baghdad and central Iraq. A U.S. statement said three U.S. soldiers were killed at the scene of Monday’s attack.



U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi policeman stand guard outside a polling center during the country’s provincial elections in central Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Associated Press

A fourth soldier and the interpreter died of wounds at a military hospital, the U.S. said.

An Iraqi police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to release the information, said two Iraqi policemen and one civilian were wounded.

It was the deadliest single attack against U.S. troops since May 2, 2008, when four Marines were killed in a roadside bombing in Anbar province, a former insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad. Four U.S. soldiers were killed Jan. 26 when two helicopters collided in the air near the northern city of Kirkuk, but U.S. officials said the crash did not appear a result of hostile fire.

At least 4,243 U.S. military members have now died since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Despite a sharp drop in bombings, shootings and killings, security controls remain intense throughout much of the country. The U.S. military has expressed concern that violence could flare again because of the slow pace of political agreements among the country’s ethnic groups.

The government announced Monday that tens of thousands of Iraqi security forces had been stationed along routes

leading to the Shiite holy city of Karbala to protect religious pilgrims marching there for rituals this week.

Attacks by al-Qaida in Iraq, other Sunni insurgents, Shiite extremists and a Shiite cult have killed hundreds of people during pilgrimages in recent years.

Hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims are expected to visit Karbala by next Monday to mark the end of 40 days of mourning that follow Ashoura, the anniversary of the seventh-century death of the Prophet Muhammad’s grandson Hussein.

He was killed in a battle for the leadership of the nascent Muslim nation following Muhammad’s death in 632.

Also Monday, two Iraqi security officials said four Iraqis transferred here from the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay were being interrogated.

The officials said the men had been arrested in Afghanistan and held at Guantanamo before being handed over to the Iraqis last month. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

President Barack Obama has ordered the detention center in Cuba to be closed within a year as part of his overhaul of U.S. national security policy. An estimated 245 men are

being held, most of whom have been detained for years without being charged.


A Shiite woman in Basra told the AP that one of the four was believed to be her brother, Hassan Abdul-Hadi Abdul-Said al-Jawhar, who disappeared in 1999 while serving with the Iraqi army in northern Iraq.

The family heard nothing from him until 2004, when it received a handwritten letter from him indicating he was in Guantanamo.

Neda Abdul-Hadi said her family was told Sunday by the International Committee of the Red Cross that her brother was back in Iraq, but she had been unable to communicate with him. She said the family had received no word from Iraqi authorities about his whereabouts.

The Red Cross said it would not comment on individual cases. The Pentagon announced Jan. 17 that it had transferred six detainees from Guantanamo — four to Iraq and the others to Algeria and Afghanistan but did not give their names.

Hugh Handeyside, a Seattle lawyer whose firm had filed a motion for release on al-Jawhar’s behalf, told the AP by telephone that he had been detained in Afghanistan in 2002 under “circumstances which are classically murky.” He was never charged, Handeyside said. □



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PG-13	TAKEN	daily: 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:05	
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R	CHANGELING	daily: 6:30 9:20	
	matinee: late show: 12:10		
PG-13	YES MAN	daily: 5:20 7:30 9:45	
	matinee: 12:45 3:00 late show: 11:55		
PG	MARLY & ME	daily: 4:30 7:00 9:35	
	matinee: 1:55 late show: 12:05		
PG	INKHEART	daily: 4:15	
	matinee: 11:55 2:05 late show:		
PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS	daily: 5:50 8:00 10:10	
	matinee: 1:30 3:40 late show: 12:20		

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU	daily: 6:30 9:10	NEW
	matinee: 1:15 3:55 late show: 11:50		
R	ROLE MODELS	daily: 4:00 6:10 8:15 10:20	NEW
	matinee: 11:55 1:55 late show: 12:40		
PG-13	YES MEN	daily: 5:40 7:50 10:05	
	matinee: 1:05 3:25 late show: 12:20		
PG	BRIDE WARS	daily: 4:05 6:05 8:00 10:00	
	matinee: 12:05 2:05 late show: 12:05		
R	UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS	daily: 4:20 6:20 8:30 10:25	
	matinee: 12:15 2:20 late show: 12:30		
PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS	daily: 3:35 5:50 8:00 10:10	
	matinee: 1:20 late show: 12:30		

DRIVE-IN February 5 – February 8

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AUSTRALIAN WILDFIRES

Continued from Page B1

"I cannot fathom in my mind anything more hellish, firewise," said Jim Andrews, senior meteorologist at accuweather.com. He added that Australia's vegetation, such as eucalyptus and gum trees, contain flammable aromatic oils.

Flags across Australia flew at half-staff and Parliament suspended its normal sessions to hear emotional condolence speeches by legislators.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was visibly upset during a TV interview and reflected disgust that arsonists may be to blame.

"What do you say about anyone like that?" Rudd said. "There's no words to describe it, other than it's mass murder."

Attorney General Robert McClelland said anyone found to have deliberately set fires could face murder charges.

Victoria Police Commissioner

Christine Nixon said investigators had strong suspicions that one of the deadly blazes — known as the Churchill fire after a ruined town — was arson, and it could not be ruled out for others.

Arson is not uncommon in Australian wildfires. Of the estimated 60,000 fires in forests and other vegetation each year, about half are deliberately lit or are suspicious, the government-funded Institute of Criminology said earlier this month.

In New South Wales State on Monday, a 31-year-old man appeared in court charged with arson in connection with a weekend wildfire north of Sydney. No loss of life was reported there, and he faces up to 10 years in prison.

At relief centers, survivors wept and embraced as they reunited with neighbors and looked for loved ones. An impromptu message board at

Whittlesea Community Center displayed yellow sticky notes. "Lisa, call me. We are worried about you," one read. "Rob, Tash, Jorja and Leslie, Where are you? Call mom and dad," read another.

Many survivors said the speed of the fires caught them off guard and even those who had planned to evacuate found

themselves forced to outrun flames sooner than expected.

At Kinglake, a body covered by a white sheet lay in a yard where every tree and blade of grass was blackened. The burned-out hulks of four cars were clustered together haphazardly after an apparent collision.

"What we've seen, I think, is

that people didn't have enough time, in some cases," Nixon said. "We're finding (bodies) on the side of roads, in cars that crashed."

Police sealed off Maryville, a town destroyed by another fire, and told returning residents and reporters they could not enter because bodies were still in the streets. □



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A-Rod admits using performance-enhancers

By RONALD BLUM
 AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Alex Rodriguez, the player who would restore integrity to baseball's home run record, admitted Monday to using performance-enhancing drugs himself. The All-Star third baseman said in an interview with ESPN that he used steroids with the Texas Rangers for three years, from 2001-03, in an attempt to justify his status as the game's highest-paid player after signing a 10-year, \$252 million contract.

"Back then it was a different culture," Rodriguez said. "It was very loose. I was young. I was stupid. I was naive, and I wanted to prove to everyone that, you know, I was worth, you know — and being one of the greatest players of all time."

He said he quit after 2003, his first of three AL MVP seasons, because "I've proved to myself and to everyone that I don't need any of that." He was traded to the New York Yankees before the 2004 season.

The admission came two days after Sports Illustrated reported on its Web site that Rodriguez was among 104 names on a list of players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball. The results weren't subject to discipline and were supposed to remain anonymous.

"When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt an enormous amount of pressure. I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me and I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day," Rodriguez said.

"And I did take a banned substance and, you know, for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful. And although it was the culture back then and Major League Baseball overall was very — I just feel that — You know, I'm just sorry. I'm sorry for that time. I'm sorry to fans. I'm sorry for my fans in Texas. It wasn't until then that I ever thought about substance of any



In this video frame grab provided by ESPN, Alex Rodriguez is interviewed by ESPN's Peter Gammons on Monday, Feb. 9, 2009. Rodriguez admitted during the interview that he used performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03, saying he did so because of the pressures of being baseball's highest-paid player.

Associated Press

kind."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks said the admission caught him by surprise. "I feel personally betrayed. I feel deceived by Alex," Hicks said in a conference call. "He assured me that he had far too much respect for his own body to ever do that to himself. ... I certainly don't believe that if he's now admitting that he started using when he came to the Texas Rangers, why should I believe that it didn't start before he came to the Texas Rangers?"

The 33-year-old Rodriguez ranks 12th on the career list with 553 homers, including 52, 57 and 47 in his three seasons with the Rangers. He is 209 behind Barry Bonds' record 762.

Now, though, he's on top of a much different list — the highest-profile player to confess to doping, joining teammates Jason Giambi and Andy Pettitte.

Rodriguez's admission is in stark contrast to the denials of former teammate Roger Clemens and Bonds.

Bonds, a seven-time MVP, is scheduled for trial next month on charges he lied when he told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Another federal grand jury is considering whether to indict seven-time AL Cy Young Award winner Clemens on charges he lied when he told a congressional committee last

year that he never used steroids or human growth hormone.

SI.com reported Rodriguez tested positive for Primobolan and testosterone.

"It was such a loosey-goosey era. I'm guilty for a lot of things. I'm guilty for being negligent, naive, not asking all the right questions," Rodriguez said. "And to be quite honest, I don't know exactly what substance I was guilty of using."

Rather than hold a news conference, as Giambi and Pettitte did for their confessionals, Rodriguez chose the controlled setting of an interview with ESPN, one of Major League Baseball's television partners.

The interview left open many questions:

- Whom did Rodriguez obtain steroids from?
- How did he pay for them?
- Did anyone help him to obtain them?

ESPN was scheduled to broadcast the full interview later Monday.

Monday's ESPN interview directly contradicted a December 2007 interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," when Rodriguez said "No" when asked if he had ever used steroids, human growth hormone or any other performance-enhancing substance.

In his 2008 book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," Jose Canseco claimed he introduced



In this March 3, 2003 file photo, top, Texas Rangers' Alex Rodriguez hits a two-RBI single against the San Diego Padres during a spring training game in Peoria, Ariz. In this March 26, 2008 file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez swings against the Philadelphia Phillies during a spring training baseball game in Clearwater, Fla.

Associated Press

Rodriguez to a steroids dealer. Canseco, who has admitted using steroids, subsequently said he had no knowledge of any drug use by Rodriguez.

"They are looking in the wrong places," Canseco said in a text message to The Associated Press. "This is a 25-year cover-up. The true criminals are Gene Orza, (union head) Donald Fehr and (commissioner) Bud (Selig). Investigate them, and you will have all the answers." SI said that Orza, the union's chief operating officer, tipped off three players in September 2004 that they would be tested. Orza has repeatedly denied that he tipped off players, saying he merely reminded them late in the season that if they had not yet been tested, baseball's drug agreement required them to be tested by the end of the regular season.

Orza, who has been widely criticized by media since the SI report, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that he doesn't care what the media says.

"I know the facts," Orza wrote. Rodriguez said Orza told him in August or September 2004 about the list of names that had been seized by federal investigators. □



Tiger's wife gives birth to son — Charlie Axel

By The Associated Press

On the day Tiger Woods usually hoists a trophy at Torrey Pines, the world's No. 1 golfer was busy with the birth of his first son.

Woods announced on his Web site early Monday that his wife, Elin, had given birth to a boy, Charlie Axel Woods. It is the couple's second child following the birth of daughter Sam Alexis in June 2007 on the day after the U.S. Open.

"Elin and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our son, Charlie Axel Woods, who was born on Sunday February 8, 2009," Woods wrote in the statement. "Both Charlie and Elin are doing great and we want to thank everyone for their sincere best wishes and kind thoughts. Sam is very excited to be a big sister and we feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful family."

"I also want to thank our doctors, nurses and the hospital staff for their personal and professional care. We look forward to introducing Charlie to you at the appropriate time, and again thanks from all of us for your kindness and support."

The 33-year-old Woods is a six-time winner of the Buick Invitational, where he also won the U.S. Open last summer for his 14th career major. □



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storage. Upstairs: Two spacious bedrooms with closets, one shared full bathroom,
two terraces with golf, ocean and city views. One car garage. **Priced at: US\$650,000**



NEW: Las Palmas I, 26, Royal Condo

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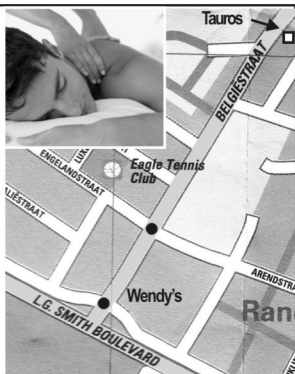
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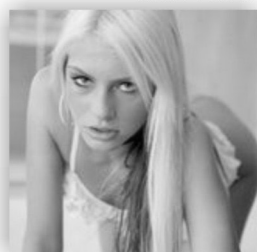
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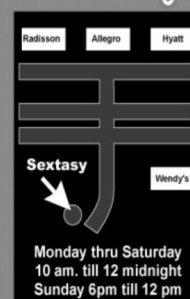
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Ex escolta de rabino sospechoso en ataque de sinagoga en Caracas

CARACAS (AP) - Un miembro de la Policía Metropolitana que hasta hace días era escolta de un rabino es el principal sospechoso de dirigir un grupo de 10 personas que atacó la mayor sinagoga caraqueña el mes pasado, confirmó el lunes el ministro para Relaciones Exteriores.

Tareck El Aissami dijo que este funcionario "conocía perfectamente la estructura interna de la sinagoga", así como sus dispositivos de seguridad.

El sospechoso no fue directamente identificado en una lista de 11 personas difundidas por el ministro y que contiene solamente nombres.

El ministro dijo que las pintas ofensivas que se hicieron en

el centro religioso buscaban "desvirtuar la investigación, y en segundo lugar dirigir la atención hacia el gobierno nacional".

El ataque había generado críticas en el mundo contra el presidente Hugo Chávez, quien en informes recientes sobre derechos humanos en Ecuador emitidos por el Departamento de Estado se le señala como contemplativo de los actos de vandalismo antisemitas.

Robert Woods, portavoz del Departamento de Estado, dijo en Washington que no podía confirmar si el gobierno venezolano había hecho un avance en las investigaciones.

"Pero, he visto las informaciones en el fin de semana", dijo en diálogo regular con reporteros.

"Seguimos preocupados por cualquier actividad antisemítica que ocurra en Venezuela o en cualquier parte del mundo".

Woods expresó, sin embargo, su confianza en que el gobierno venezolano "hará todo lo que esté a su alcance para que este tipo de hechos no continúen, así como arrestar a todos los autores de actividades antisemitas..."

Chávez ya había informado del arresto de sospechosos el domingo en una entrevista en el canal privado Venevisión, donde señaló además que, al parecer, hubo cierta ayuda desde dentro del recinto.

"El jefe de la banda es un funcionario de la Policía Metropolitana que estuvo durante los últimos cuatro

años como escolta personal del rabino de esa sinagoga", dijo. Informó que el ex escolta fue

detenido junto con otros siete policías y tres civiles como parte de una investigación. □

Rescatan a nigeriano secuestrado en Ecuador

QUITO (AP) - La policía informó que rescató el lunes al nigeriano Chito Nmeze, quien estaba secuestrado desde octubre en la ciudad portuaria de Guayaquil.

Nmeze había cumplido una condena de cuatro años de prisión por tenencia ilegal de drogas y

cuando abandonaba la cárcel el 28 de octubre fue secuestrado por desconocidos, informó el coronel Joel Loyza, jefe de la policía judicial de la provincia de Guayas, cuya capital es Guayaquil, la segunda ciudad del país, a 270 kilómetros al suroeste de Quito. □




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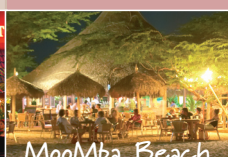
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